

LOUISVILLE JOURNAL

GREEN STREET, BETWEEN THIRD AND FOURTH.

PRENTICE, HENDERSON, & OSBORNE,
PUBLISHERS.

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GEO. D. PRENTICE, Editors.
PAUL D. McPHAIL, Associate Editor.
OLIVER LUCAS, Local Editor and Reporter.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1862.

We have received a communication from a very distinguished citizen animadverting upon the failure of our land forces in the storming of Fort Henry to cut off the retreat of the rebel army.

As the details of the assault are not yet authentically known, as such details have not transpired to do not seem to us to warrant an adhesion, and as our correspondent's misadventures are exceedingly severe and also particular, we, in justice to all concerned, withhold the communication for the present at least. In doing this we make no doubt that we shall entitle ourselves to the especial thanks of our patriotic and illustrious correspondent himself.

The capture of Fort Donelson is a crushing blow to the rebellion, and leaves Nashville and Memphis at the mercy of the Union forces, if indeed they will have the temerity to offer any further resistance to the might of the Government. It will be some days before the details of the battle can be received. The loss of life on both sides has doubtless been terrible; the loyalists fought with all the manly inspiration of a righteous cause, and the rebels with all the energy of despair. We give in other columns all the facts connected with the battle which have reached us, and shall await the full returns with great solicitude. Meanwhile, with feelings of gratitude for joy too deep for utterance, we congratulate our fellow-citizens on the prospect of peace and national supremacy which at last is opening before us.

THE MIGHTIEST EVENT OF THE WAR.—Of course we need not enlarge upon the vast importance—was both in character and in results—of the event with which the whole nation is now resounding, the victory of the Union arms at Fort Donelson. It is an event of great, of tremendous moment. It transcends in magnitude all the other conflicts of the war combined, brilliant and startling as some of them have been. Millions and millions of patriots will shout over it and kindle bonfires and ring bells and discharge cannon and join in torch-light processions, and even in the rebel sections of the Union hundreds of thousands of hearts that hitherto have dared to cherish their loyalty only in secrecy will give utterance to their joy in words as free and as the winds that sweep the sky.

The taking of Fort Donelson was a truly prodigious work. The Confederate military authorities did not believe that it could be done by an force that could be brought against them. Their confidence in its supposed impregnability made them willing to risk everything on the issue. They had just as many heavy guns as they wanted, it is true, it appears over 120 pounds, as heavy siege guns as have ever been used upon this continent. The fort was constructed upon the most scientific principles, everything being done in and around it that a large army working under the direction of the best civil and military engineers could accomplish, by the unceasing labor of weeks. Deep trenches were dug at proper distances in front of the high and formidable embankments, thousands and thousands of trees were dragged untrammelled and whole and placed thick together, considerably in front of the trenches so that no foe should be able to penetrate even to the first trench without being detained long enough to be slaughtered by the murderous fire of artillery and thousands of rifle from points of comparative security, and all the other obstacles were created that ingenuity could devise and numbers and industry execute. Add to all this, those terrible defences are said to have been formed by an army of twenty-five or thirty thousand men fighting under the black flag, the murderous flag of no surrender and no quarter.

We do not know of an instance on record where such a powerful work, so powerfully manned, was carried by an army except after long investment and slow and scientific approaches. We do not know what was the strength of Gen. Grant's army, but, knowing what we did of Fort Donelson, we trembled for several days with painful apprehensions as to the issue of the approaching attack. The battle and its results will be hailed, so long as there shall be an American history, as an immortal evidence of the patriotic and even desperate valor of our countrymen. The account of the closing scene has not come, but it will be wildly and deeply thrilling when it comes. It will stir the blood of feeble age, of vigorous manhood, of beautiful womanhood, and of feebly minded children.

Few troops in the world, even though headed by a Napoleon or a Murat, could have been led to the storming of a fort against odds so dreadful. We presume that Southern pens and tongues have written and spoken their last words of derision and scorn in regard to the imputed cowardice of the troops of the United States battling for all that is worth, being called a country.

The proceeds of this victory are incalculable. We have captured fifteen thousand of the enemy, including their two greatest generals, and their whole immense supply of artillery and all their small arms, ammunition, and provisions. It is the annihilation of a Southern army when the military power of the Southern Confederacy was already strangled and gasping for breath. It is a blow from which the rebellion cannot recover. Kentucky may now be recorded as delivered from the dark curse that has so long rested upon a large portion of her soil, and now the war, if the rebels must still have war, will sweep through Tennessee, and the redemption of that once noble state will be the immediate consequence.

The traitor Tilghman met his reward several days ago. The traitors Sidney Johnson and Simon Bolivar Buckner have now met their ends, and Beauregard and Polk may, if they will, profit by the three warnings. We exult not over a fallen foe, but God knows we do exult, and we thank Him for the privilege of exulting, that Buckner has fallen. Let him be well and honorably treated as a prisoner of war, but while there is a war, let him go forth a free man no more.

The Cincinnati Gazette thinks it has detected us in an inconsistency because while we expressed anxiety that it should not publish early army news, we gave place to a letter from Ft. McHenry written "On the eve of the battle." The Gazette mistakes our position. We have no objection to the publication of army news; our objection is to the publication of contemplated movements and the strength of particular bodies of our troops. To write a letter on the eve of a battle which cannot reach its destination for three or four days can do no injury to the Union cause. We are sorry to see the Gazette so captious in reference to this matter. We were earnest, in our request that it should be more guarded, but it is not met in a friendly or a patriotic spirit.

A stretch of land to the eastward of Roanoke Island is called Kill Devil Hills. We wonder they did not fall and cover the devils who stirred up this rebellion.

The subject of legislative relief to the people is now taxing the statesmanship of the General Assembly. Perhaps there is no subject, in the whole range of legislative duties, better suited to tax statesmanship to the utmost. And in the present instance the necessity for action appears to be as great as the difficulty of wise action. Indeed, there is no room for doubt as to the necessity of relief in some form. On this point the Governor in his message holds the following language:

In regard to the whole of which the contending arms have been laid down, the country has been made safe and large amounts of property have been saved and large numbers of persons have been saved from want and destitution, and independent, were suffering for the necessities of life; their forces have been destroyed, their stock and provision taken away, and their families scattered; the country add to this, that many persons have been frightened or dragged from their homes and suffering families. The laws are silent, or cannot be enforced. Universal sympathy exists among those regions. Families are divided and broken up, and each has its wounds to its woes to relate. Satisfaction stands ready to help the kindred bearing of the loyal authorities everywhere, has done more to break down the spirit of the rebels, and more to brace up the spirits of the silent patriots of the South, than any touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

It is hardly too much to say that General Bull's handsome conduct in relation to the remains of Gen. Zoullier, sustained as it is by the kindred bearing of the loyal authorities

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 8 A.M.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORD—FEBRUARY 17.
CLOUDS DAILY AT 8 A.M. NOON AND 4 P.M.

CLOUDS OVER MAX. MIN. BAROMETER. Therm. &c.

Clouds	Max.	Min.	Barom.	Therm.	&c.
47	47	42	30	63.8	29 56.0
47	47	42	30	63.8	29 56.0
47	47	42	30	63.8	29 56.0
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NEW POINTS.—Psychrometer. Wind.

Wind. Wind.

LOUISVILLE JOURNAL
UNITED STATES MAIL.
KENTUCKY.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

WINTERBOURNE, November 30, 1851.

PROPOSALS will be received at the Post Office Department, Louisville, Kentucky, on MONDAY, March 31, 1852, for conveying the mails of the United States from Louisville, Kentucky, to the State of Kentucky, and vice versa, in the State of Kentucky, on the route and by the schedules of departure and arrival herein specified.

Decisions announced by April 24, 1852.

(Riders will examine carefully the forms and instructions annexed, especially the part of the instruc-

tions relating to the time of delivery of the mail.)

201—From Louisville, by West Point, Brackenbury,

Manlius, Ind., New Amsterdam, Leaven-

worth, New Haven, Greenup, Carrollton, Ind., Tell City, Troy, Loretto, Frankfort, Owsley, Knob-

newburgh, and Green River, Ky., to Evans-

wood, and to Cincinnati, Ohio, via Covington, three times a week.

Leave Louisville daily, except Sunday, at 7 a.m.;

Arrive at Cincinnati next day by 4 p.m.;

Leave Cincinnati Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 p.m.;

Leave Cincinnati Saturday at 1 p.m.;

Leave Cincinnati Sunday at 10 p.m.

202—From Louisville, by Leavenworth, Salina, River View,

West Point, Garrettsville, Garret, Meadville,

Lakeview, Wauseon, McLean's Ba-

chelor, Hilliard, Cincinnati, Zanes, Henderson, Ge-

nova, and Mount Sterling, Ohio, to Evans-

wood, and to Cincinnati, via Covington, three times a week.

Leave Louisville daily, except Sunday, at 7 a.m.;

Arrive at Cincinnati next day by 4 p.m.;

Leave Cincinnati Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 p.m.;

Leave Cincinnati Saturday at 1 p.m.;

Leave Cincinnati Sunday at 10 p.m.

203—From Louisville, by West Point, Brackenbury, Kentuck-

ian, New Amsterdam, New York, and

Leavenworth, and Cincinnati, via Covington, three times a week.

Leave Louisville daily, except Sunday, at 7 a.m.;

Arrive at Cincinnati next day by 4 p.m.;

Leave Cincinnati Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 p.m.;

Leave Cincinnati Saturday at 1 p.m.;

Leave Cincinnati Sunday at 10 p.m.

204—From Louisville, by Rock Creek, Cedar Creek,

Hart's Spring, Beaver, Station, High Grove,

Fairfield, and Bloomfield, to Chaplin, 47 miles,

Leave Louisville twice daily, except Sunday, at 7 a.m.;

Leave Louisville daily, except Sunday, at 7 a.m.;